

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

June 6, 2012

Throughout the world, due to political, religious, or other social issues that have the potential to result in bodily harm, deprivation, and discrimination, refugees are forced to flee their countries to find freedom, economic security and protection from violence and persecution. The decision to leave is never made lightly and often involves unimaginable risks in free societies such as ours.

Refugees and their families settle in Los Angeles County with the objective of starting new lives free of persecution, torture, and imprisonment. Los Angeles County's Departments of Public Social Services and Public Health, and Voluntary Resettlement Agencies play an integral part in assisting the refugee in this life-changing undertaking.

Culturally and linguistically sensitive resettlement assistance, employment and specialized services are provided to refugees and their families by the African Community Resource Center, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service, International Institute of Los Angeles, International Rescue Committee, Jewish Family Services, World Relief, Armenian Relief Society, Jewish Vocational Services, Community Enhancement Services, Department of Public Health and the Department of Public Social Services, in order to assist them in integrating into American society and improving their daily lives.

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

According to the California Department of Social Services, Refugee Program Bureau, in the last five years 14,521 refugees have arrived in Los Angeles County. As residents of Los Angeles County, through their talents, faiths, and shared common values, refugees enrich our society and add to the diversity which strengthens the fabric of life in Los Angeles County.

Over the past several decades, many refugees seeking freedom, safety and liberty have chosen to resettle in Los Angeles County. Just as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees proclaimed June 2012 as “World Refugee Awareness Month,” the Board of Supervisors proudly recognizes the numerous contributions refugees have made to enhance the culture of Los Angeles County.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaim the month of June 2012 as “Refugee Awareness Month” in Los Angeles County to increase public awareness and appreciation of the many contributions refugees make to our County.

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